United Nations S/2009/344

Security Council

Distr.: General
7 July 2009

Original: English

Twenty-first progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to resolution 1865 (2009), by which the Security Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) and the French Licorne force until 31 July 2009, and requested me to report on the situation in Côte d'Ivoire and on progress towards achieving the key benchmarks proposed in my nineteenth progress report of 8 January 2009 (S/2009/21). The present report covers major developments since my twentieth progress report on UNOCI of 13 April 2009 (S/2009/196). The benchmarks and indicators of progress are set out in annex I to the present report.

II. Security situation

2. During the period under review, the overall security situation in the country remained generally stable. The main security incidents included armed robberies and other criminal activities in both rural and urban areas, as well as killings, armed attacks perpetrated by unidentified individuals, coupled with abductions and rape of women and girls, and theft and extortion of money in some areas, particularly in the western part of the country.

3. The upsurge in community tensions in the west also remains a major concern and has adversely affected the pace of return of internally displaced persons (IDPs). Reversing this negative trend requires stronger measures from the Government, with support from the United Nations, civil society and local community leaders to comprehensively forge community reconciliation and address land tenure issues and concerns arising from a weak social fabric. The effective restoration of State authority in the west, including building the capacity of rule of law institutions, would also help to address these challenges.

III. Status of implementation of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement

4. As indicated in my previous reports, significant progress has been made in the past two years in the implementation of the Ouagadougou Agreement and its

Please recycle

supplementary agreements. The main achievements include the end of hostilities between the Forces nouvelles and the national defence and security forces; the removal of the zone of confidence that had physically divided the country; the restoration of free movement of people and goods throughout the country; the successful conduct of a credible process to identify the population and register voters; the overall improvement of the human rights situation throughout the country; sustained dialogue among the main political leaders; the gradual return to the north of State officials displaced during the conflict; the encouraging rebound of the economy; and the technical preparations for the elections. In this regard, on 14 May, the Ivorian Government announced that the first round of the presidential elections will be held on 29 November. However, progress in the implementation of processes related to the reunification of the country as set out in the fourth supplementary agreement to the Ouagadougou Agreement, including the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants and the disarmament and dismantling of militias, centralization of the collection of revenues and the reunification of the defence and security forces, has been limited. Meanwhile, from 21 to 29 May, the Convention de la société civile ivoirienne, an umbrella group of civil society organizations, held its "national consensus days" with a view to reinforce the inclusiveness of the peace process and devise a forward agenda for peace consolidation in Côte d'Ivoire.

5. The Under-Secretary-General for peacekeeping operations Alain Le Roy, visited Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso from 10 to 14 June, to consult national and international stakeholders, take stock of progress made in the Ivorian peace process and familiarize himself with the activities of UNOCI. All his interlocutors, including President Laurent Gbagbo, Prime Minister Guillaume Soro, the Facilitator of the Ivorian peace process, President Compaoré of Burkina Faso, and the leaders of the opposition, reiterated their commitment to hold elections on 29 November 2009, and reassured him that remaining tasks under the reunification agenda would not pose obstacles to meeting the election date.

A. Reunification

6. As regards reunification, the fourth supplementary agreement to the Ouagadougou Agreement set out the modalities and provided a timeline for completing the following key tasks: (a) the disarmament of the former combatants of the Forces nouvelles and the dismantling of the militias, two months before the elections; (b) the reunification of Ivorian defence and security forces; (c) the effective redeployment of State administration throughout the country, including the *corps préfectoral* (local authorities), the judiciary and the fiscal and customs administration; and (d) the centralization of the treasury.

7. Overall, progress in the implementation of the fourth supplementary agreement to the Ouagadougou Agreement remained limited. However, an encouraging development during the period under review was the ceremony to launch the transfer of authority from the Forces nouvelles zone commanders in northern Côte d'Ivoire to the *corps préfectoral* held on 26 May in Bouaké. Further work is now required to develop the operational capacity of the *corps préfectoral* and the redeployed local administration structures, including the judiciary, fiscal and customs authorities and law enforcement agencies.

8. With regard to the deployment of the mixed brigades, 4,000 Forces nouvelles personnel are expected to join an equivalent number of Ivorian national police and gendarmerie. The Integrated Command Centre expects to deploy the mixed units in three phases: first, 2,300 gendarmes and policemen, including 650 and 500 elements from each party in Abidjan and Bouaké respectively; second, 2,700 elements in Odienné, Korhogo, Abengourou and San Pedro; and third, 3,000 elements in Man, Daloa, Yamoussoukro and Bouna. As at 1 July, there were 450 Ivorian police elements, including 350 gendarmes and 100 police officers, deployed in Bouaké, and 101 Forces nouvelles elements in Abidjan. However, these elements do not yet have the full capacity to provide security. In addition to financial and logistical problems, the operationalization of the Integrated Command Centre is also hampered by lack of clear operating procedures.

9. Progress regarding the reunification of the fiscal administration has been very limited. The Forces nouvelles continued to collect revenues in the north, despite the resumed efforts to restore the operations of national financial structures, which remain inadequately staffed and equipped. On a positive note, however, redeployment allowances were disbursed to civil servants who formed part of the first group of redeployed staff in the northern and western regions. The second wave of redeployed officials is still awaiting payments.

10. Despite remaining challenges, progress is being made in the re-establishment of the judiciary and justice institutions in the north. The tribunals of first instance in Bouaké and Man and seven lower courts are now functioning, but the judicial quorum in the tribunal of Korhogo has not yet been reached. The Court of Appeal in Bouaké, which is vital for providing instruction to the lower courts, has yet to open. Most of the designated court clerks have been redeployed, but there is still a critical shortage of essential support staff. As redeployment continues and the caseload for judges expands beyond administrative law matters, more judiciary personnel, including judges, court clerks and support staff, and office equipment and supplies will be required. The lack of progress in redeploying judicial police and corrections officers continues to adversely affect efforts to restore the rule of law throughout the country.

11. Corrections staff, including prison directors, have not yet fully redeployed, and require further training in prison security and human rights. The deployment of approximately 120 penitentiary staff to the north is yet to be completed. Penitentiary institutions face systemic overpopulation and food and medicine shortages, while public safety continues to be compromised by frequent jail breaks.

12. The coordinated redeployment of police, justice and corrections is crucial to the strengthening of the justice system in the north. UNOCI continues to address these and other justice-related challenges throughout the country by providing technical advice to the national authorities. To address excessive pre-trial detention, UNOCI assisted in developing procedural guidelines for non-governmental organizations assisting detainees, as well as in identifying focal points within the prison administration. In part thanks to UNOCI advocacy efforts, the 10th European Development Fund approved by the European Commission on 2 April has earmarked some $23 million for support to judicial and penitentiary system reform in Côte d'Ivoire.

B. Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants and dismantling of the militias

13. The activities of the national structures in charge of the disarmament and reintegration of former combatants and militias remained stalled. Whereas the fourth supplementary agreement to the Ouagadougou Political Agreement includes a provision for payment by the Government of a reinsertion allowance, valued at approximately $1,000 for each eligible demobilized combatant and militia member, there is still no clarity on the availability of funds or payment modalities. UNOCI, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and with resources from the Peacebuilding Fund, continued to support the reintegration process through the implementation of 510 microprojects benefiting a total of 2,768 ex-combatants, militias, women affected by the conflict, and youth-at-risk. These projects have helped reduce tensions among the ranks of ex-combatants and contributed towards the creation of a secure environment in the areas in which they have been implemented. At the same time, the role of the impartial forces in the supervision of weapons surrendered by the demobilized elements needs to be strengthened.

14. The Integrated Command Centre and the national programme for reinsertion and community rehabilitation completed the profiling and registration of 37,436 government militias throughout the country, including in Abidjan, in May. During a meeting on 19 June, the Integrated Command Centre, militia leaders and other stakeholders agreed to review the preliminary results of the profiling, taking into account the eligibility criteria adopted in October 2008 as the numbers are significantly higher than expected. The militia leaders also requested to meet with President Gbagbo and Prime Minister Soro to discuss the overall number of militia elements eligible for participation in the process. The quantity of weapons, ammunition and other military items surrendered by the militia, and stored under UNOCI supervision, has remained very low. However, discussions regarding the surrender of any weapons that may have been held back are ongoing.

C. Elections

15. On 14 May, the Council of Ministers adopted a decree setting 29 November 2009 as the date for the first round of the presidential election. In the same decree, in keeping with the provisions of the Pretoria Agreement of 2005, President Laurent Gbagbo confirmed the eligibility of all signatories of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement to stand in the upcoming elections, including the two main leaders of the opposition, Henri Konan Bédié of the Parti Démocratique de Côte d'Ivoire and Alassane Ouattara of the Rassemblement des Républicains.

16. On 18 May, the Facilitator, President Compaoré of Burkina Faso, convened the fifth meeting of the Permanent Consultative Framework, comprising President Gbagbo, Prime Minister Soro, Mr. Bédié and Mr. Ouattara. The Permanent Consultative Framework endorsed the 29 November 2009 date for the presidential election, and agreed on the completion of identification and voter registration operations on 30 June. At the end of June, the Independent Electoral Commission was yet to come up with a detailed and endorsed timeline for the completion of other key aspects of the electoral process, such as the publication of the provisional

and final lists of voters, the production and distribution of identification and voters' cards and the electoral campaign period.

17. Meanwhile, pre-electoral campaigning activities intensified during the period under review and were conducted in a relatively positive atmosphere. In early June, President Gbagbo, accompanied by Prime Minister Soro, visited the western region, where he called on Ivorians to continue to support the Ouagadougou process. For their part, the leaders of the opposition parties campaigned in the Abidjan, Bas Sassandra, Bouaké, Moyen-Comoé and Zanzan regions, including in traditional strongholds of the ruling party.

18. Although the final, consolidated official figures are yet to be released, as of 1 July, some 6.4 million Ivorians had been identified and registered at 10,818 registration centres across the country. In mid-June, operations to register Ivorians residing abroad were launched in 23 countries, resulting in the identification of 38,307 nationals as of 30 June, based on figures from only those countries that have reported back. That figure represents 52.5 per cent of the estimated 72,935 Ivorians residing abroad. Both the domestic and international identification and voter registration operations were officially completed on 30 June. Meanwhile, operations to reconstitute lost or destroyed civil registers concluded on 20 May. To expedite the process, the Ivorian Government adopted a new procedure by which a certified extract of the court record ("plumitif") was accepted in lieu of a birth certificate for voter enrolment. These operations have generated a total of 270,966 applicants, out of which 251,275 were approved by the concerned Commissions.

19. Financial problems and technical delays continued to hamper the identification, voter registration and reconstitution processes during the reporting period. The Ivorian Government experienced difficulties in meeting its commitments to disburse funds to the electoral management bodies (Independent Electoral Commission and National Commission for the Supervision of Identification) and to technical operators in the identification and voter registration process (the French private company SAGEM, the National Institute of Statistics and the National Office on Identification). Frequent strikes and demonstrations by personnel claiming disbursement of salaries affected the various operations. The Independent Electoral Commission is likely to continue to face major logistical and operational challenges in implementing the next stages in the electoral process, including in the production and distribution of voters' cards. The start of the biometric validation of the identification and voter registration data requires the full functionality of the 68 departmental coordination centres, of which only 18 were fully operational as of 1 July.

20. To help address these challenges, and in line with its mandate, UNOCI continued to provide critical support to the identification and voter registration operations, through the deployment of significant transport capacities in the framework of UNOCI "operation transport". UNOCI has also provided 26 generators in order to assist in the identification and voter registration operations in remote areas in the west, as well as 9 generators for back-up power supply to help ensure timely identification data processing in the main coordination centres throughout the country.

21. Meanwhile, UNOCI, in close consultation with all stakeholders, is further refining comprehensive plans for logistical support for elections, encompassing all

critical aspects for discharging effective assistance throughout the electoral period. This includes detailed planning for the UNOCI commitment to secure and deliver all non-sensitive and sensitive electoral cargo from two main distribution warehouses in Abidjan and Yamoussoukro to 70 sites in the national administrative departments. UNOCI also continued preparations to coordinate international election observation activities. On 10 June, the African Union Peace and Security Council announced that the African Union will provide support to the Ivorian electoral process, including through the deployment of international observers at the request of Côte d'Ivoire. UNOCI also plays a key role in facilitating and supporting the redeployment of mixed brigade elements throughout the country, who are expected to lead in providing security for elections under the authority of the Integrated Command Centre.

22. During its meeting on 18 May, the Permanent Consultative Framework requested my Special Representative to provide further clarification on the modalities of his mandate to certify the electoral process. In this regard, my Special Representative sent letters on 2 June to key stakeholders setting out the certification modalities. He also used the occasion of the "national consensus days" organized by the Ivorian civil society to explain the mandate and procedures to the Ivorian public. As indicated in my previous reports, my Special Representative identified the following criteria for certifying the electoral process: (a) the prevalence of a peaceful environment throughout the electoral process; (b) inclusiveness of the electoral process for all eligible voters and candidates; (c) the impartiality of State media and equitable access for all candidates, parties and political groupings; (d) explicit certification of the inclusiveness of the voters' list; and (e) explicit certification of results.

IV. Deployment of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire

A. Military component

23. As at 1 July, UNOCI military strength stood at 7,854 personnel, comprising 7,571 troops, 192 military observers and 91 staff officers, including 91 women, against an authorized strength of 7,450. In line with the provisions of Security Council resolution 1865 (2009) that envisaged the reduction of UNOCI force from 8,115 to 7,450 personnel, the military component strength will be reduced by 636 personnel, when a battalion from Bangladesh completes its repatriation on 22 July, leaving the level of the force strength at 7,200 personnel. The UNOCI force is currently deployed at the Force headquarters in Abidjan and at 22 camps of company-size or larger throughout the country. The current force configuration, with a battalion-sized force reserve, company-sized sector reserves, and increased mobility, including through airlift capacities, enhances the flexibility of the force and allows for rapid response to potential threats in support of the Integrated Command Centre. Since the departure of a French Engineer Company in April, preparations have been under way for the deployment of an Egyptian Engineer Company, envisaged to be completed by September 2009.

24. Meanwhile, in early June, the French Licorne completed the reduction by 50 per cent of its force strength, retaining some 900 troops, primarily in the Abidjan

area. However, France reaffirmed that it continues to retain the quick reaction capabilities to support UNOCI, if required.

25. UNOCI troops continued to carry out routine and special activities, such as long-range patrols, air patrolling and increased mobility to ensure quick and timely response to any emergencies. The force also continued to provide transport assistance to the electoral and identification processes. In the framework of inter-mission cooperation, UNOCI and the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) continued to cooperate on cross-border security issues. Regular meetings at the borders, exchange of information, and joint patrolling took place. The eighteenth Inter-Mission Force Commanders Conference, held in Abidjan on 8 May, reviewed the contingency plans for the possible reinforcement of UNOCI by one infantry company and four tactical helicopters from UNMIL, if necessary, for a limited period of up to three months, starting 30 days prior to elections. This contingency plan would be activated only if future assessments show the need for additional reinforcements, beyond the support to be provided by Licorne. However, this requires further discussion with Licorne forces to ensure that the capabilities will be available.

B. Police component

26. As at 1 July, UNOCI police strength stood at 1,183 against an authorized ceiling of 1,200, including 433 police officers and 750 officers in formed police units, including 21 women United Nations police officers and 2 women formed police officers. During the reporting period, the UNOCI police component continued to provide advice and training to the national police and gendarmerie in the Government-controlled areas and assistance to national security authorities in the redeployment of police and gendarmerie personnel to the northern part of Côte d'Ivoire, providing transportation and assistance in planning and monitoring for the planned deployment of 8,000 security elements throughout Côte d'Ivoire to secure the electoral process. Support, advice and mentoring were also provided to the 600 security auxiliaries trained by UNOCI in 2006 and deployed in 54 police stations in the northern part of the country, thereby contributing to the reduction of insecurity in the north. Continued joint patrols conducted by United Nations police officers contributed to rebuilding confidence between policing institutions and the Ivorian population.

27. The UNOCI police component further assisted in the restructuring of the national gendarmerie and police through capacity-building projects, in partnership with various stakeholders, in the areas of general training techniques, forensics, conduct and ethics, and crowd control. The six formed police units continued to protect United Nations personnel, installations and equipment. They also carried out regular joint patrols with other United Nations components and national counterparts to maintain a safe and secure environment within their areas of responsibilities.

28. Following consultations with police-contributing countries and the leadership of both UNOCI and UNMIL, I intend to temporarily redeploy, for an initial period of up to three months, one Police expert from each Mission to the United Nations Office for West Africa in Dakar, Senegal. The redeployment of these officers in an advisory capacity will take place in support of the implementation of the Economic

Community of West African States (ECOWAS) regional action plan to combat illicit drug trafficking and transnational organized crime in the subregion.

V. Humanitarian situation

29. While an estimated 77,860 IDPs, out of approximately 120,000, have voluntarily returned to their areas of origin, land disputes and an overall weak social fabric still pose a threat to the sustained pace of return of the remaining IDPs and hinder the provision of durable solutions for returnees and host communities in the west. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), leading the protection cluster in the west, has been working closely with the local authorities and traditional leaders, including through the deployment of UNHCR protection monitors to several IDP displacement and return areas, to find lasting solutions to the underlying causes of conflict, to promote a favourable protection environment conducive to return and to rekindle the declining IDP return momentum. Meanwhile, financial requirements for responding to critical humanitarian needs were revised to $36.7 million.

30. While humanitarian assistance efforts are being consolidated, the needs of communities affected by the Ivorian crisis are gradually shifting towards recovery. Consequently, humanitarian partners in the country have committed to adapting to the current coordination framework and to anchoring their response planning to mid- and long-term national development objectives. In order to further facilitate the bridging of humanitarian and development interventions, a special window fund for local transition initiatives has been developed within the UNDP-administered basket fund for the "Programme de sortie de crise".

VI. Human rights

31. The prevailing insecurity in certain areas provided a fertile ground for serious human rights violations and led to demonstrations by the local population, who demanded full respect for their right to safety and security. Acts of violence by members of the Fédération estudiantine et scolaire de Côte d'Ivoire and other student groups provoked disruptions in the education sector and caused the death and injury of several persons, as well as the destruction of public and private property. These abuses very often went unpunished. Repeated strikes by teachers' unions threatened the full enjoyment by students of their right to education.

32. Recurrent conflicts in the north between farmers and cattle-breeders over the destruction of the former's crops by the latter's cattle, as well as intercommunity violence fuelled by the resistance of the native population to the return of non-native internally displaced persons, particularly in the western part of the country, threatened social cohesion in several villages. UNHCR deployed a team of 23 monitors in various parts of the west to monitor tensions and work on measures to prevent or respond to conflicts through interventions with local authorities and key partners.

33. In the north, several instances of killings, torture and ill treatment, arbitrary arrest, illegal and incommunicado detention, harassment, forced labour, extortion

and intimidation of civilians were perpetrated by former combatants and traditional hunters.

34. A disturbing trend of abduction, rape and violence against girls and women persisted, especially in the west and north, where young children were raped by unidentified men. UNOCI efforts to prevent and address impunity and violence against girls and women continued with limited progress, including because of delays in the effective redeployment of judicial services. In many instances, the families of victims of sexual violence withdrew complaints and opted for extrajudicial settlement of the matter. Also, fees for medical certification often prevented victims from presenting legal evidence.

35. UNOCI continued to disseminate information and raise awareness of basic human rights norms and principles at the grass-roots level, with special emphasis on the protection of women's rights, to a total of 23,306 people. It also pursued activities aimed at promoting human rights awareness in secondary schools, with the establishment of several new human rights clubs. On 3 April, the Minister of Education committed the Government to the adoption of a national plan of action for human rights education in schools with a view to implementing the 1993 Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action. On 29 June, the National Human Rights Commission submitted its first annual report since it commenced activities on 31 July 2008. The report, covering the last five months of 2008, indicates that the Commission had received complaints about human rights violations in 201 cases, 154 of which remained pending as of 31 December 2008, and makes recommendations to the Ivorian Government aimed at further strengthening the Commission's effectiveness and its autonomy and independence, in conformity with the Paris Principles relating to the status and functioning of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights.

VII. Gender

36. UNOCI focused on sensitizing national and international partners on my campaign to end violence against women, in particular in the context of an upsurge in sexual violence in the country. UNOCI also continued to strengthen the capacity of local women's groups to encourage their participation in the electoral process, and provided technical and financial support in that regard. Furthermore, UNOCI organized a round table on female genital mutilation following a series of awareness-raising sessions for school youth. The round table explored legal, social and health-related implications of female genital mutilation with Government representatives and local stakeholders. UNOCI continued to raise awareness among its personnel and promote gender-mainstreaming by, inter alia, appointing a women's focal point, in line with Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008).

VIII. Child protection

37. Sexual violence against children remained prevalent throughout the country, in particular in areas where law enforcement is weak. Most of these abuses occurred in connection with other serious criminal incidents. UNOCI, in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund, continued its dialogue with the parties to the

conflict in order to prevent and address violence against children, in accordance with the recommendations of the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict in Côte d'Ivoire (see S/AC.51/2008/5). In this regard, two follow-up meetings were held with the Chief of Staff of the Forces nouvelles to review progress in the implementation of the Forces nouvelles action plan to address sexual violence, referred to in my previous report. Although the members of the follow-up mechanism have been nominated, the Working Group is yet to convene. Meanwhile, consultations with the Government and other stakeholders to finalize the national action plan to combat sexual violence are ongoing.

IX. HIV/AIDS

38. UNOCI sensitized 478 mission personnel on HIV/AIDS and provided individual counselling and testing services to 225 mission personnel. Meanwhile, UNOCI continued to support several HIV/AIDS outreach projects in Côte d'Ivoire: 25 sex workers completed training in the framework of the joint HIV/AIDS prevention project by the government, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and UNOCI, targeting sex workers and Ivorian security forces. Furthermore, 3,313 ex-militia members were sensitized, of which 371 were also offered counselling and testing services as part of a joint initiative by UNOCI, UNDP, UNFPA and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS to mainstream HIV/AIDS awareness into the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process. Finally, UNOCI, the Ministry for the Fight against AIDS and local non-governmental organizations conducted HIV/AIDS awareness sessions for 127 prison detainees.

X. Economic recovery and financial support to the peace process

39. During his visit to Côte d'Ivoire from 25 to 28 May 2009, the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Mr. Dominique Strauss-Kahn, commended the Ivorian authorities on the country's recent economic performance, but reminded them that the implementation of strong policies under the Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility programme will be essential to stay the course towards debt relief under the Heavily-Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative in the period ahead. Mr. Strauss-Kahn welcomed the decision to include expenditures on large-scale public works in the budget framework and was encouraged by the support among political leaders for the economic reform programme under the Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility.

40. However, Côte d'Ivoire continues to face serious economic and socio-economic challenges that require further support from the international community. The global financial and economic crisis lowered demand for certain export products, such as timber, triggering the closure of businesses and the dismissal of thousands of Ivorian workers. The Government has reduced parafiscal levies and duties in the cocoa sector, and committed to significantly lower the total taxation of the sector to 22 per cent of the world price by HIPC completion point, which will be crucial for the efforts to reduce poverty, as cocoa farmers account for some 28 per cent of the poor in Côte d'Ivoire.

41. The recent debt sustainability analysis completed in the context of the HIPC decision point shows clearly that Côte d'Ivoire is in debt distress. Côte d'Ivoire has so far received about 55 per cent of its estimated HIPC debt relief through pre-2002 excess debt relief provided by the Paris Club and London Club creditors, and through the reduction embedded in the concessional arrears clearance operations undertaken by the International Development Association in April 2008 and the African Development Bank (AfDB) Group in March 2009. In addition, the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative of approximately $2 billion in nominal terms is expected to be delivered by the World Bank Group, AfDB and IMF upon reaching the HIPC completion point.

42. Efforts by the United Nations and the international community to mobilize funds to support the implementation of the Ouagadougou Agreement continued. The two basket funds established and administered by UNDP to support the electoral process and post-crisis peace consolidation activities are fully operational, and continue to receive external funding. Of the $48 million earmarked for the basket fund for elections, $11 million has been disbursed thus far. Meanwhile, the $22 million raised for the basket fund in support of the Government's "Programme de Sortie de Crise" was disbursed in support of various initiatives envisaged in the Ouagadougou Agreement, including the redeployment of State administration, the return of IDPs and reinsertion programmes for former combatants.

43. Pursuant to paragraph 22 of Security Council resolution 1865 (2009), support to the facilitation of the inter-Ivorian direct dialogue and the Special Representative of the Facilitator continued. The project, executed by the United Nations Office for Project Services, received contributions from the Peacebuilding Fund, the World Bank and the European Union, through ECOWAS, in addition to contributions from France and Norway.

XI. Media monitoring and public information

44. UNOCI continued to monitor the Ivorian media with a view to identifying incitements to intolerance, hatred or violence. A number of private media continued to relay provocative statements by political parties and groups against their rivals, and coverage of the activities of political groups by State audio-visual media remained imbalanced. Given the sensitivity of the electoral period, UNOCI held consultations with key Ivorian institutions in charge of monitoring the media, including the Ministry of Communication, the National Council for Audiovisual Communication and the National Press Council, to establish an early warning and prevention mechanism.

XII. Personnel conduct and discipline

45. UNOCI, in cooperation with the Office of Internal Oversight Services, continued to investigate allegations of misconduct by UNOCI personnel and recommended disciplinary action where allegations were substantiated. Awareness-raising activities on my zero-tolerance policy regarding sexual exploitation and abuse were carried out for both United Nations staff members and the host population. Furthermore, efforts were initiated to establish an in-country network on sexual exploitation and abuse, with a view to strengthening victim assistance mechanisms in particular. The network comprises UNOCI, United Nations agencies,

funds and programmes, and international and national non-governmental organizations.

XIII. Safety and security of personnel

46. Despite the overall stable security situation in Côte d'Ivoire, urban crime, roadside banditry, extortion, rape and murder continue to pose significant threats throughout the country. All security measures applicable to United Nations staff continued to be strictly enforced with a view to reducing exposure of staff to criminal and other dangerous situations.

XIV. Financial implications

47. The General Assembly, by its resolution 63/289 of 30 June 2009, appropriated the amount of $491.8 million for the maintenance of UNOCI for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010. Should the Security Council decide to extend the mandate of UNOCI beyond 31 July 2009, the cost of maintaining the Operation until 30 June 2010 would be limited to the amounts approved by the General Assembly. As at 30 April 2009, unpaid assessed contributions to the special account for UNOCI amounted to $132.2 million. The total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations at that date amounted to $1,754.5 million. Reimbursement of troop- and contingent-owned equipment costs has been made for the periods up to 31 December 2008 and 18 December 2008, respectively.

XV. Observations

48. I welcome the announcement of 29 November as the date for the long-awaited presidential elections in Côte d'Ivoire, and look forward to the publication, without further delay, of a consensual and realistic timeline for the completion of the remaining tasks leading to elections, including the publication of provisional and final lists of voters. I am also encouraged that the parties have reaffirmed and formalized their commitment, made in the context of the Pretoria negotiations of 2005, that all signatories of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement are eligible to stand as candidates in the forthcoming elections, which is crucial for the credibility and transparency of the electoral process.

49. The progress made so far in the identification and voter registration operations, which resulted in the enrolment of more than 6.4 million Ivorians by the end of June, and the ongoing pre-electoral campaigning activities undertaken by the Ivorian political leaders in a positive political environment, provide ground for optimism. The absence of any major incident during the identification and voter registration process represents a significant achievement and, hopefully, a positive indication also for the future stages of the electoral process. Technical challenges, for example in the process for the biometric validation of the identification and voter registration data, need to be urgently addressed.

50. In moving forward, it is important that the Ivorian parties sustain the progress achieved so far and complete, in a timely manner, the remaining stages of the peace process. The parties should also preserve the prevailing positive political climate. It

is my hope that any disputes that may arise before the elections, including on the provisional list of voters, are resolved in the spirit of dialogue that has been the hallmark of the Ouagadougou agreements.

51. The Ivorian parties and the Chairman of the Independent Electoral Commission have affirmed that the holding of the presidential elections by 29 November is technically feasible. In this regard, I welcome the assurances given by all the parties to the Under-Secretary-General for peacekeeping operations during his recent visit to Côte d'Ivoire, that no insurmountable technical obstacle to the holding of the first round of the presidential elections on 29 November was foreseen and I also note that all parties indicated to him that elections could be held also without the full implementation of the remaining tasks under the reunification agenda.

52. However, it is the political will and calculations of the main Ivorian political players that will ultimately determine whether or not the election date will be respected. It is also important that the parties continue to make steady progress on the reunification agenda, in particular by advancing the implementation of the fourth supplementary agreement to the Ouagadougou Agreement. Some of the processes set out in this agreement would indeed help create the conditions conducive to the organization of credible and secure presidential elections and lay the foundation for lasting peace and stability in Côte d'Ivoire. Limited progress in the crucial transfer of authority from the Forces nouvelles zone commanders to the *corps préfectoral*, despite the ceremony to launch this process held in Bouaké on 26 May, in the deployment of joint police and gendarmerie units of the Forces nouvelles and the Ivorian defence and security forces throughout the country to secure the electoral process, and in the centralization of the treasury remains a concern.

53. It may be unrealistic to expect all of the reunification-related tasks, as per the provisions of the fourth supplementary agreement to the Ouagadougou Agreement, to be implemented two months prior to the 29 November elections. Thus, the reunification issue will likely remain a key challenge after the elections. I call on all the parties to pursue these efforts through continued dialogue, with the support of the Facilitator, including on ways to streamline the provisions of the fourth supplementary agreement and ensure that the reunification process does not compromise the 29 November election date.

54. Since the start of the crisis in 2002, the Ivorian parties have already missed two dates set for the holding of the presidential elections in 2005 and 2008. The 29 November elections will therefore test the credibility of the peace process and the ability of the Ivorian parties to honour their commitments. Failure to respect this date may cost the Ivorian parties the goodwill and trust of their international partners, who have invested significant resources to ensure the successful and timely completion of key tasks set out in the Ouagadougou Agreement and supplementary agreements. I therefore urge the Ivorian parties to respect the elections date and to ensure that the elections are open, free, fair and transparent. Their successful conduct will place Côte d'Ivoire on the path to reclaim its place as a pillar of stability, democracy and development in the subregion.

55. The holding of open, free, fair and transparent elections in Côte d'Ivoire will also constitute a key benchmark that may provide a basis for devising an exit strategy for UNOCI. While UNOCI and the United Nations country team are already working on arrangements for the transition from peacekeeping to post-conflict

recovery and development, these arrangements will be implemented only after thorough consultations with the Ivorian Government after the elections.

56. The long-term stability of Côte d'Ivoire will also depend on the ability of the Ivorian parties and leadership, both before and after the November elections, to address those issues that were at the core of the Ivorian crisis. In this regard, it is my hope that the successful conduct of the identification process, so far, will contribute to resolving one of the main sources of the crisis. The reform of the security sector is another key issue that needs to be addressed in order to establish durable peace in Côte d'Ivoire. UNOCI will, in line with its mandate, further assist the Ivorian parties in their efforts to move security sector reform forward.

57. UNOCI will also continue to work with the national institutions, the Facilitator and other international partners to help overcome technical and logistical challenges that may impact on the overall implementation of the Ouagadougou Agreement. The Mission will continue to assist the Ivorian authorities in maintaining a secure environment for the peace process, and the electoral process in particular, through its deterrent military presence, and to monitor and investigate human rights violations, with a view to helping the efforts to end impunity, with particular focus on helping to combat violence against women and children.

58. I therefore recommend that the mandate of UNOCI be extended by six months, through 31 January 2010.

59. In conclusion, I would like to thank my Special Representative for Côte d'Ivoire, Y. J. Choi, and all UNOCI military, police and civilian personnel for their continued commitment to supporting the peace process. I am also grateful to the Facilitator of the Ivorian peace process, Blaise Compaoré, President of Burkina Faso, for his facilitation efforts. Finally, I thank all troop- and police-contributing countries, ECOWAS, the African Union, the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, humanitarian organizations and multilateral and bilateral donors, as well as international and local non-governmental organizations, for their important contributions to the return of peace and stability to Côte d'Ivoire.

Annex I

Benchmarks and indicators of progress in key areas of the Ouagadougou Agreement and its supplementary agreements

Benchmarks	*Indicators of progress*	*Timeline (2009)*	*Status of implementation*
Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants/dismantling of the militias	• Profiling and cantonment of 5,000 Forces nouvelles elements at four sites in the north	29 September	• Partially in progress
	• Deployment of 8,000 mixed brigade police and gendarmerie elements under supervision of the integrated command centre		• Under way but at slow pace
	• Storage of weapons by the integrated command centre under the supervision of the impartial forces		• Partially in progress and partially under negotiation
	• Profiling and dismantling of militia groups		• In progress
	• Payment of $1,000 demobilization package to former combatants and militias		• Under negotiation
	• Reinsertion of demobilized combatants and militias		• Partially in progress and partially under negotiation
Elections	• Identification and voter registration	30 June	• Completed
	• Reconstitution of lost or destroyed civil registers		• Completed
	• Provision of security during the electoral process by the integrated command centre with the support of UNOCI		• Partially in progress
	• Establishment of the provisional and final voters lists	Early August and September	• Partially in progress

Benchmarks	*Indicators of progress*	*Timeline (2009)*	*Status of implementation*
	• Publication of the final electoral list and elaboration of the new electoral map	September	
	• Production and distribution of national identity and voter's cards	October and November	
	• Preparation of the 11,000 voting sites, including transportation of the sensitive and non-sensitive electoral cargo to the sites	November	
	• Electoral campaign	November	
	• Polling and announcement of election results	29 November and early December	
Complete restoration of State authority	• Effective and complete redeployment of the *corps préfectoral*		• Partially in progress
	• Transfer of authority from zone commanders to the *corps préfectoral*		• Formally completed
	• Centralization of the treasury in the north		• Partially in progress
	• Deployment of mixed police and gendarmerie units in the north		• Under negotiation
	• Deployment of magistrates and court clerks supported by the judicial police, expected to play a role in adjudicating electoral disputes and civil law matters		• Partially in progress and partially under negotiation
	• Deployment of correction officers and prison directors		• Partially in progress and partially under negotiation
	• Deployment of other civil servants, including agents of line ministries		• Under way but at slow pace

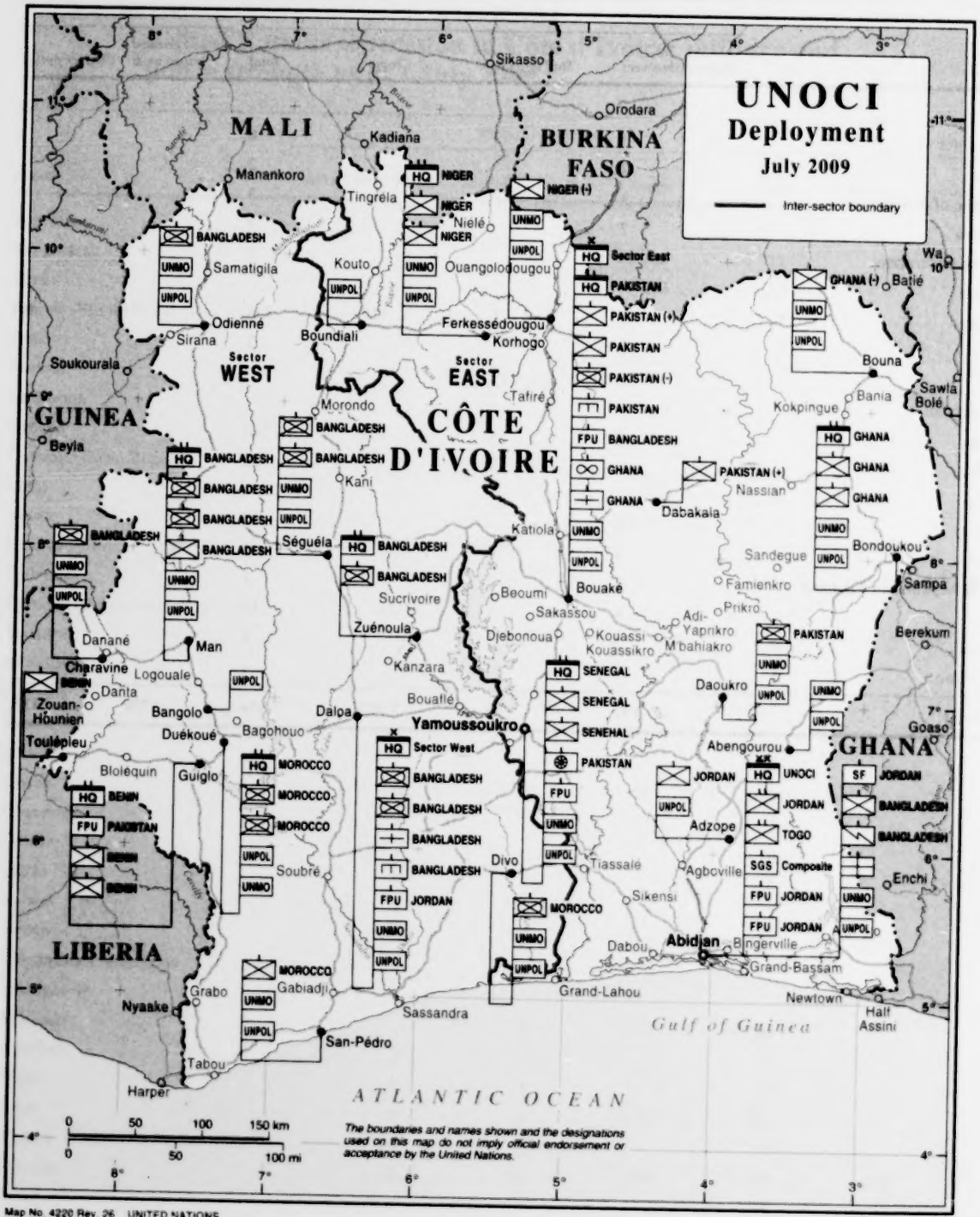
Benchmarks	*Indicators of progress*	*Timeline (2009)*	*Status of implementation*
Commencement of security sector reform	• Negotiations on reunification issues		• Partially in progress
	• Adoption of all relevant decrees governing the reunification of the two armies		• Pending
	• Full operationalization of the integrated command centre		• Under way but at slow pace
	• Integration of Forces nouvelles elements recruited in 2001 in the new national army		• In progress
	• Deployment of mixed police and gendarmerie units for securing the electoral process		• Under way but at slow pace

Annex II

United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire: military and police strength as at 1 July 2009

	Military component				*Police components*	
Country	*Military observers*	*Staff officers*	*Troops*	*Total*	*Formed police units*	*Civilian police*
Argentina						3
Bangladesh	14	10	2 708	2 732	250	4
Benin	6	9	419	434		48
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	4			4		
Brazil	4	3		7		
Burundi						21
Cameroon						37
Canada						9
Central African Republic						9
Chad	3			3		26
China	7			7		
Croatia	2			2		
Djibouti						52
Democratic Republic of the Congo						20
Ecuador	2			2		
El Salvador	3			3		
Ethiopia	3			3		
France	2	9		11		10
Gambia	3			3		
Ghana	6	7	535	548		15
Guatemala	5			5		
Guinea	2			2		
India	8			8		
Ireland	2			2		
Jordan	7	12	1 048	1 067	375	10
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya						2
Madagascar						
Morocco		3	723	726		
Namibia	2			2		
Nepal	2	1		3		
Niger	6	4	382	392		59
Nigeria	10			10		
Pakistan	12	11	1 126	1 149	125	1
Paraguay	8	2		10		

Country	Military component				Police components	
	Military observers	Staff officers	Troops	Total	Formed police units	Civilian police
Peru						3
Philippines	3	3		6		
Poland	2			2		
Republic of Moldova	3			3		
Romania	7			7		
Russian Federation	8			8		
Rwanda						49
Senegal	11	6	321	338		
Serbia	3			3		
Spain						4
Switzerland						20
Togo	7	4	309	320		
Tunisia	7	3		10		
Turkey						17
Uruguay	2			2		4
Uganda	3	1		4		
United Republic of Tanzania	1	2		3		
Yemen	9	1		10		10
Zambia	2			2		
Zimbabwe	1			1		
Total	**192**	**91**	**7 571**	**7 854**	**750**	**433**


UNOCI
Deployment
July 2009
Inter-sector boundary
MALI
BURKINA FASO
GUINEA
CÔTE D'IVOIRE
LIBERIA
GHANA
Sector WEST
Sector EAST
Sikasso
Orodara
Kadiana
Manankoro
Tingréla
Nielé
Samatigila
Kouto
Ouangolodougou
Odienné
Sirana
Boundiali
Ferkessédougou
Korhogo
Soukourala
Tafiré
Morondo
Kani
Séguéla
Katiola
Dabakala
Nassian
Kokpingue
Bouna
Batié
Wa
Sawla
Bolé
Bondoukou
Sandegue
Famienkro
Sampa
Beyla
Danané
Man
Charavine
Logouale
Danta
Zouan-Hounien
Toulépleu
Bangolo
Duékoué
Bagohouo
Guiglo
Blolequin
Soubré
Zuénoula
Sucrivoire
Beoumi
Bouaké
Sakassou
Djebonoua
Kouassi Kouassikro
Adi-Yaprikro
Mbahiakro
Prikro
Daoukro
Berekum
Goaso
Kanzara
Bouaflé
Daloa
Yamoussoukro
Abengourou
Adzope
Agboville
Divo
Tiassalé
Sikensi
Dabou
Abidjan
Bingerville
Grand-Bassam
Grand-Lahou
Newtown
Half Assini
Enchi
Gulf of Guinea
Gabiadji
Sassandra
San-Pédro
Grabo
Nyaake
Tabou
Harper
ATLANTIC OCEAN
0 50 100 150 km
0 50 100 mi
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
Map No. 4220 Rev. 26 UNITED NATIONS
July 2009
Department of Field Support
Cartographic Section